

REMARKS

Claims 2, 5, 6, 15 and 16 have been amended to address the ambiguities cited by the Examiner. In claim 2, the phrase lacking antecedent basis has been replaced with a phrase reciting two specific elements previously expressed. In claims 5, 6, 15 and 16 the ambiguous phrases “or more” and “or less” have been replaced with the non-ambiguous terminology “no less than” and “no greater than”, respectively.

It is submitted that the Examiner has improperly applied the teaching of Greenhalgh, in particular with regard for the three independent claims 1, 13 and 23. Greenhalgh teaches a fabric having a plurality of filamentary members with a first group of filamentary members having a low melting point and a second group of filamentary members having a relatively high melting point, where the first group is joined to the second group by heating the fabric to a temperature higher than the melting point of the first group but lower than the melting point of the second group, such that the first group fuses with the second group at mutual points of contact (paragraphs 0009 and 0020). The use of polyester yarns having a higher relative melting point and monofilament polypropylene yarns (i.e., a single untwisted strand of synthetic material) having a lower melting point is given as the example (paragraph 0024).

The invention as set forth in the independent claims requires the use of stiffener yarns intersecting with base yarns. The stiffener yarn comprises in combination (1) low melt temperature filaments and (2) common polymer filaments, where the low melt temperature filaments have a melting point below the melting point of the base yarns and the common polymer filaments - the common polymer filaments being defined in the specification as being “preferably identical or very similar in physical properties to the base yarns comprising the fabric panel, and most preferably comprise the identical material forming the base yarns” (page 9, lines

18-22). Thus the stiffener yarn, the member that fuses to bond with the base yarns at the intersections, must be composed of at least two components - the common polymer filaments (with a relatively high melting point) and the low melt temperature filaments. During the fusing process only the low melt temperature components of the stiffener yarn melt, fuse and re-harden, since the temperature is kept below the melting point of the common polymer filaments.

The presence of the common polymer filaments in the stiffener yarn is important for several reasons. The common polymer filaments provide a framework or matrix for the melted low melt temperature filaments to prevent distortion of the fabric that could result if melt flow was random or excessive (page 8, line 30 to page 9, line 3 and page 10, lines 9-14). The common polymer filaments in the stiffener yarn also give the stiffener yarn a visual appearance after re-hardening that is similar to that of the base yarn (page 8, lines 26-27), and gives the stiffener yarn handling and processing characteristics similar to the base yarn (page 8, lines 27-29), which is important to prevent problems during weaving or knitting procedure. The final stiffness of the fabric can be controlled by varying the ratio of common polymer filaments to low melt temperature filaments (page 6, lines 2-6) without needing to vary the diameter of the stiffener yarn. The presence of the common polymer filaments also allows the stiffener yarn to be more flexible during the weaving or knitting process (page 11, lines 13-16), which is a problem when the relatively stiffer monofilament polypropylene filaments taught by Greenhalgh are used in conjunction with more flexible polyester filaments. The presence of the common polymer filaments also acts as a filler that imparts increased stiffness to the low melt temperature filaments once re-hardened (page 12, lines 15-20).

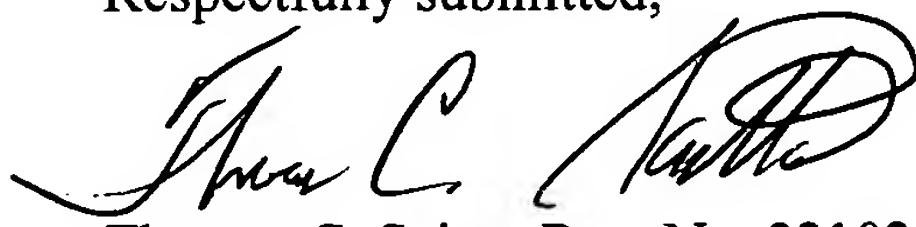
The independent claims require that the fabric panel comprise base yarns intersecting with stiffener yarns comprising in combination low melt temperature filaments and common

polymer filaments, wherein the melting point of the low melt temperature polymer filaments is less than the melting points of the base yarns and the common polymer filaments. The use of a two-component stiffener yarn as described and claimed is not anticipated taught or suggested by any of the known prior art. Nor is any motivation provided in the prior art for a skilled artisan to substitute the stiffener yarn as described and claimed in the application for the monofilament polypropylene filamentary member taught by Greenhalgh.

It is respectfully submitted that all the claims as now presented are patentable, on the basis of the above remarks, and reconsideration and subsequent passage for allowance is hereby requested.

A replacement copy of the non-patent literature cited in the IDS previously filed but missing from the file is also enclosed as requested.

Respectfully submitted,

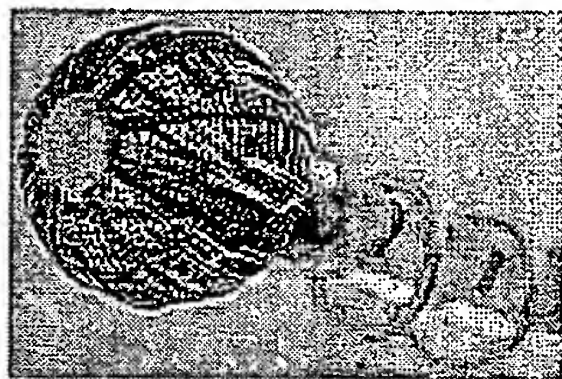


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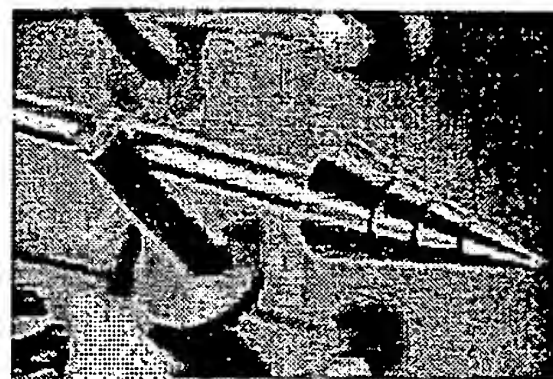
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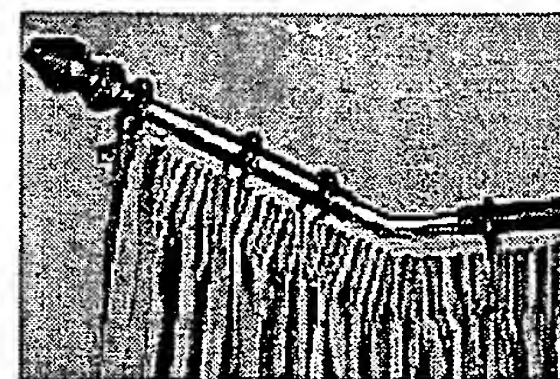
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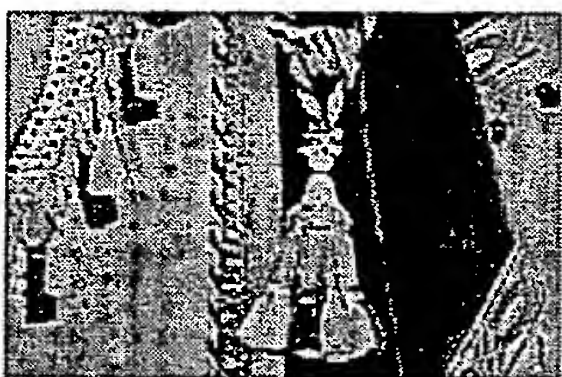
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Curtains have a striking influence on the mood and atmosphere of any room in your home from the romantic look of sheers, to the stately formality of rich drapes. Curtain poles, rods and tracks can make a huge difference to the style of the window treatment: large diameter wooden curtain poles with decorative finials are perfect for the traditionalist, whereas simple geometric stainless steel curtain rods appeal to the more contemporary minded.

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Rufflette Eyelet Heading



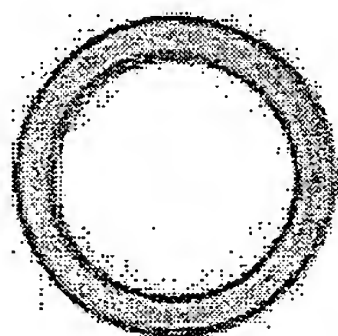
Rufflette Eyelet Tape

Per metre: £2.55 (\$4.08)

An 80mm (3 1/4") wide decorative tape to be used with poles/rods up to 35mm (1 3/8") in diameter and light to medium weight fabric. Features 38mm (1 1/2") eyelets and pleating tabs. Eyelet rings are available separately and hide untidy edges. One metre of tape requires 9 rings.

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[Instructions for using Rufflette Eyelet Tape.](#)



Rufflette Eyelet Rings (Pack of 16)

Price: £12.00 (\$19.20)

Plastic snap-on rings or grommets available in 3 finishes (matt nickel, matt brass and black) for use with Rufflette eyelet tape. Inner diameter: 38mm (1 1/2").

Choose Finish:
Matt Nickel ▼

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Deco Rings



Regency Deco Rings (Pack of 10)

Price: £9.68 (\$15.49)

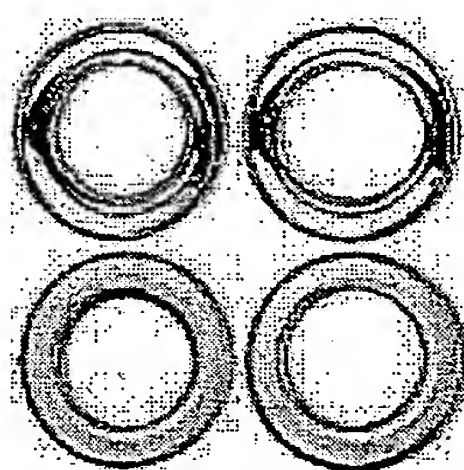
Plastic snap-on rings or grommets in white or black: make eyelet curtain headings for a 30mm diameter pole (they do not fit over a 35mm diameter

Choose Finish:
White ▼

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pole). Cut out circle from fabric and snap two halves of deco ring together to create heading. Does not require (and cannot be used with) Rufflette Eyelet tape.

[Instructions for using Deco Rings.](#)



Regency Metal-Effect Deco Rings (Pack of 10)

Price: £12.57 (\$20.12)

Plastic snap-on rings or grommets in brass, chrome, matt brass and matt steel finishes: make eyelet curtain headings for a 30mm diameter pole (they do not fit over a 35mm diameter pole). Cut out circle from fabric and snap two halves of deco ring together to create heading. Does not require (and cannot be used with) Rufflette Eyelet tape.

Choose Finish:

Brass ☒

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[Instructions for using Deco Rings.](#)

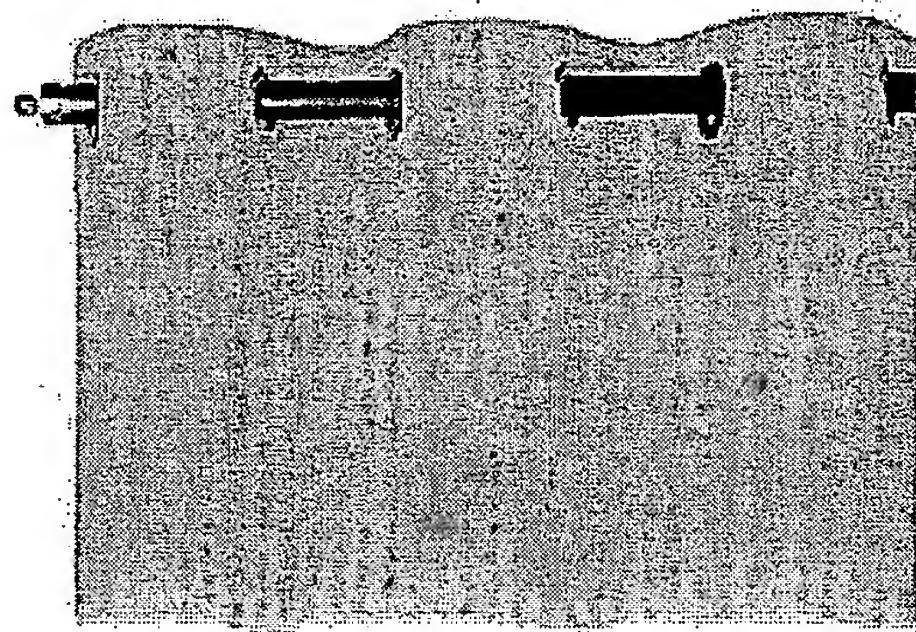
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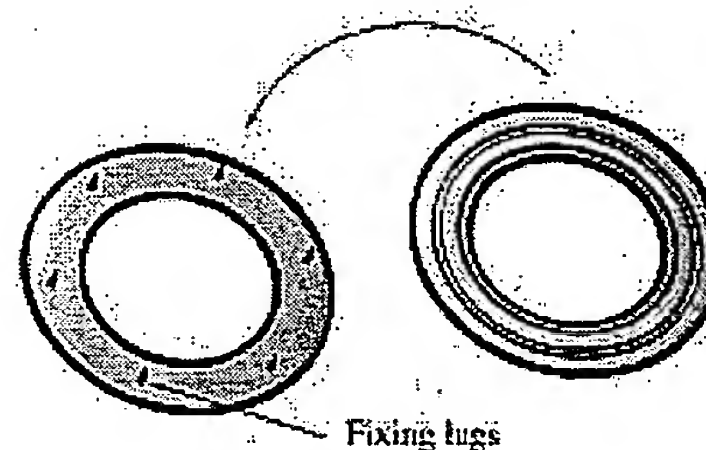
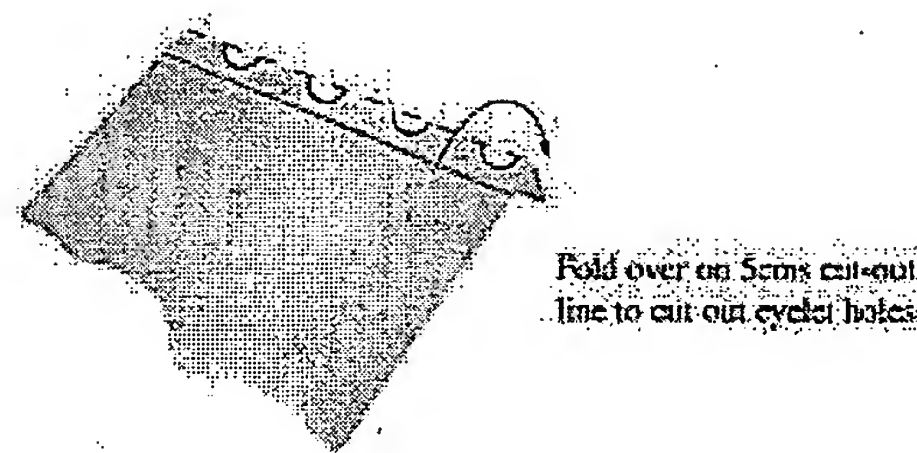
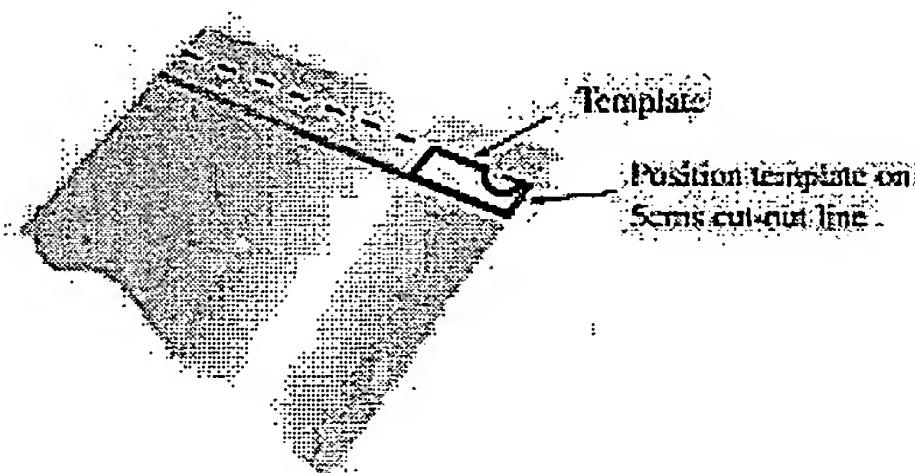
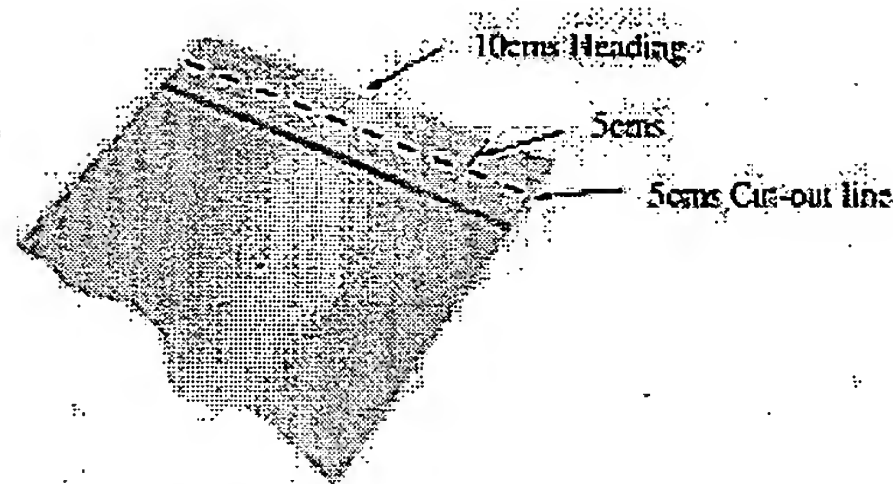
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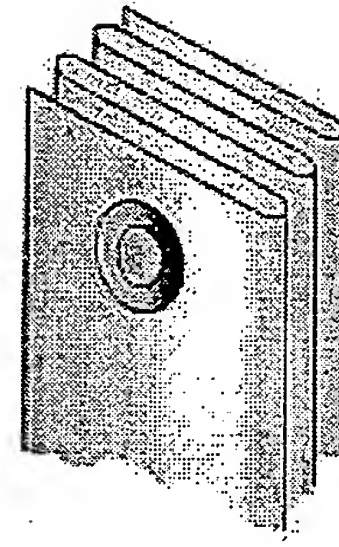
Tips & Ideas

How to Use Deco Rings

1. Prepare curtain panel with 10-12cm heading/top hem.
2. With the reverse side of the fabric uppermost measure and mark a line 5cm down from the top of the curtain.
3. Mark out a semi-circle 4cm in diameter along the 'cut-out line', 3cm from the leading side of the curtain (use template provided with Deco Rings). Repeat on the opposite side.
4. Mark out semi-circles along the fold at regular intervals of approximately 15cm. Ensure that there are an even number of semi-circles along the curtain. Do not cut the fabric until you have double-checked your measurements.
5. Fold over the fabric on the 5cm 'cut-out line' and proceed to cut out the semicircles of fabric as shown.
6. Unfold the fabric and place one half of the deco ring over the fabric hole. From the other side of the fabric locate the corresponding half deco ring and snap the two halves together.



7. 'Concertina' fold the curtain and thread onto curtain pole.



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